

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 SY-02 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

INRE-00 /048 W

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P 271202 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7591

S E C R E T MONROVIA 1516

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS PFOR LI

SUBJECT: ARREST OF PRINCE BROWNE

REF: MONROVIA 1472

1. ON MORNING OF MARCH 27 MINDEF WILLIAMS INFORMED CHIEF USMILMISH THAT ON PREVIOUS EVENING ASSISTANT MINDEF PRINCE BROWNE, LT COL SAYDEE AND LT COL KPARDEH (OPERATION OFFICER, FIRST LNG BRIGADE) WERE ARRESTED AND PLACED IN BARCLAY TRAINING CENTER STOCKADE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING. AMONG DESPOSITIONS SO FAR RECEIVED IS ONE FROM MAJOR FREEMAN WHO HAD TURNED STATE'S EVIDENCE.

2. MINDEF WILLIAMS ALSO INFORMED CHIEF USMILMISH THAT ON EVENING OF MARCH 26 PRESIDENT TOLBERT SIGNED LETTER DISMISSING ASSISTANT MIN BROWNE AND ALSO DIRECTED MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO PROSECUTE.

3. ARRESTS HAVE ALREADY BECOME PUBLIC KONOWLEDGE AND WILL PROBABLY FAST DEVELOP INTO MAJOR NEWS ITEM HERE.

WE FULLY EXPECT THAT PUBLIC WILL SOON BECOME AWARE OF FACT THAT BROWNE AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAD APPROACHED
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EMBASSY OFFICERS ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND THAT THESE
APPROACHES WERE REPORTED TO GOL. MINISTER WILLIAMS
HAS ASSURED CHIEF USMILMISH THAT PRESIDENT TOLBERT IS
SATISFIED THAT USG IN NO WAY IMPLICATED IN THE CASE
(OTHER THAN FACT THAT BROWNE AND SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS
HAD TAKEN INITIATIVE TO CONTACT EMBASSY OFFICERS WHICH
EMBASSY PROMPTLY REPORTED TO GOL AUTHORITIES).
MANFULL

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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